

U.S. Appln. No. 10/076,090
Reply to Office Action dated October 20, 2005

PATENT
450100-04866

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1, wherein said media provider farm comprises;~~ A system for publishing transcoded media content, comprising:

a publishing service request processor that generates a media provider request based on a requesting client's publishing service request; and

a media provider farm that receives said media provider request from said publishing service request processor and delivers transcoded media content to fulfill said media provider request;

wherein said media provider farm comprises:

at least one transcoding server;

a media provider request processor that receives said media provider request and, when indicated by said media provider request, initiates a transcoding task at one of said at least one transcoding server; and

at least one distribution server that distributes said transcoded media content,

wherein said media provider request processor comprises a database containing information about the availability of said at least one transcoding server and said at

U.S. Appln. No. 10/076,090
Reply to Office Action dated October 20, 2005

PATENT
450100-04866

least one distribution server.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said media provider request processor comprises a server load monitor that monitors loading on said at least one transcoding server.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said media provider request processor comprises a task load monitor that estimates prospective loading on one of said at least one transcoding server, wherein said prospective loading would be attributable to said transcoding task.

5. (Original) The system of claim 2, further comprising a media provider request scheduler that generates a batch media provider request that is received by said media provider request processor.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein said media provider request scheduler comprises a speculative transcoding manager that identifies source media content to be transcoded and identifies a format for the transcoded media content.

7. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said media provider farm further comprises a cache that stores transcoded media content for subsequent distribution through said at least one distribution server.

U.S. Appln. No. 10/076,090
Reply to Office Action dated October 20, 2005

PATENT
450100-04866

8. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein said publishing service request processor comprises an intelligent publishing options agent that determines how the transcoded media content is to be published, and generates said media provider request specifying how the transcoded media content is to be published.

9. (Original) A method of providing transcoded media content to a destination client in response to a publishing service request from a requesting client, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving the publishing service request; and
- (b) when requested transcoded media content is stored in a cache,
 - (i) generating and sending a media provider request that specifies cache access of the requested transcoded media content;
 - (ii) identifying a distribution server;
 - (iii) sending a distribution request to the distribution server; and
 - (iv) delivering the requested transcoded media content from the cache to the destination client via the distribution server.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

- (a) when the requested transcoded media content is not stored in the cache in exactly the requested format, but the same content is stored in the cache in a different format usable by the destination client,
 - (i) generating and sending a media provider request that specifies cache access of the same content in the different format;

U.S. Appln. No. 10/076,090
Reply to Office Action dated October 20, 2005

PATENT
450100-04866

(ii) identifying a distribution server;
(iii) sending a distribution request to the distribution server; and
(iv) delivering the same content in the different format from the cache to the destination client via the distribution server.

11-24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A method of providing transcoded media content in response to a batch media provider request, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving the batch media provider request;
- (b) selecting a transcoding server based on server load;
- (c) sending, to the selected transcoding server, a transcoding task corresponding to the batch media provider request;
- (d) transcoding source media content to produce the requested transcoded media content; and
- (e) storing the requested transcoded media content in a cache.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the batch media provider request is generated by a speculative transcoding manager.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the transcoded media content requested in the batch media provider request is selected on the basis of the popularity of previous transcodes and on their destination types.

U.S. Appln. No. 10/076,090
Reply to Office Action dated October 20, 2005

PATENT
450100-04366

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the transcoded media content requested in the batch media provider request is selected on the basis of a publisher's requirement for publication of the transcoded media content.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said step (d) comprises transcoding in the absence of real time constraints, to produce higher quality transcoded media content than would be produced otherwise.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said step (b) comprises the step of determining server load by measuring current load on the transcoding server, including estimation of any loads that will be incurred after maturation of immature transcoding tasks.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of determining the server load further comprises the step of receiving an indication of the load of each mature task.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein said ~~transcoder~~ transcoding server selection of said step (b) is further based on an estimated load to be created by the transcoding task.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein said step (b) comprises the steps of:

- (i) determining source, destination, and server properties;
- (ii) searching historical transcode task load data for a closest match;

U.S. Appl. No. 10/076,090
Reply to Office Action dated October 20, 2005

PATENT
450100-04866

(iii) calculating a difference between the transcoding task and the closest match:

and

(iv) if the difference is sufficiently small, returning a load value of the closest match; otherwise, returning a predetermined conservative load estimate.

34-38. (Canceled)